



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
 United States Patent and Trademark Office
 Washington, D.C. 20231
www.uspto.gov

RECEIVED
 CENTRAL FAX CENTER

Paper No. 6

LERNER DAVID LITTENBERG
 KRUMHOLZ & MENTLIK
 600 SOUTH AVENUE WEST
 WESTFIELD, NJ 07090

AUG 19 2004

SPF

COPY MAILED

AUG 27 2002

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of
 Nilgun E. Turner et al
 Application No. 09/936,454
 Filed: September 13, 2001
 Attorney Docket No. OCIRS-073

: DECISION DISMISSING PETITIONS
 : UNDER 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) AND
 : UNDER 37 CFR 1.78(a)(6)

This is a decision on the petitions under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3), and 37 CFR 1.78(a)(6) filed by facsimile transmission on July 30, 2002, which are being treated as petitions to accept an unintentionally delayed claim under 35 U.S.C. § 365(c) for the benefit of a prior-filed international application designating the United States of America (Application No. PCT/US00/07330, filed March 20, 2000) and under 35 U.S.C. 119(e) for the benefit of two prior-filed provisional applications (Application Nos. 60/125,654, filed March 22, 1999 and 60/124,961 filed March 18, 1999).

The petitions are dismissed as moot for the reasons stated below.

A petition for acceptance of a claim for late priority under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) and 37 CFR 1.78(a)(6) are only applicable to those applications filed on or after November 29, 2000.

37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(ii)¹ indicates that the time periods set forth therein do not apply if the later-filed application is: (1) an application for a design patent; (2) an application filed under 35 U.S.C. § 111(a) before November 29, 2000; and (3) a nonprovisional application which entered the national stage after compliance with 35 U.S.C. § 371 from an international application filed under 35 U.S.C. § 363 before November 29, 2000.

LDLKM
 SEP 03 2002

RECEIVED

¹ 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2) was amended to place its provisions in separate paragraphs (a)(2)(i) through (a)(2)(iv) for clarity. See Requirements for Claiming the Benefit of Prior-Filed Applications Under Eighteen-Month Publication of Patent Applications, 66 FR 67087 (December 28, 2001); 1254 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office, 121 (January 22, 2002) (final rule).

Application No. 09/936,454

Page 2

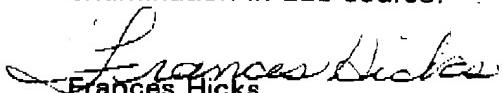
Since the instant nonprovisional application is the national stage entry of an international application filed prior to November 29, 2000, the provisions of 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) for acceptance of a late claim for priority do not apply to the subject nonprovisional application. Accordingly, the petition is dismissed as involving a moot issue.

According to MPEP 1893.03(c), page 1800-149, a national stage application filed under 35 U.S.C. § 371 may not claim benefit of the filing date of the international application of which it is the national stage since its filing date is the date of filing of that international application. See also MPEP 1893.03(b). Accordingly, it is not necessary for the applicant to amend the first sentence of the specification to reference the international application number that was used to identify the application during international processing of the application by the international authorities prior to commencement of the national stage under 35 U.S.C. § 371.

In view of the dismissal of the instant petition as moot, the \$130 fee is unnecessary. Accordingly, as authorized, this fee will be refunded to Deposit Account No. 12-1095 in due course.

Any inquiries concerning this decision may be directed to Karen Creasy at (703) 305-8859.

This application is being returned to Technology Center Art Unit 1638 for examination in due course.



Frances Hicks
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions
Office of the Deputy Commissioner
for Patent Examination Policy